

CITY OF WOODINVILLE
King County, Washington
March 31, 1993 Through December 31, 1993

Schedule Of Findings

1. The City Should Comply With State Statutes When Purchasing Equipment

During 1993 the city purchased \$10,203.22 in computer equipment from one vendor without obtaining competitive bids.

During the city's preincorporation period, it entered into an agreement with a consulting firm, for the purpose of setting up a computer system for the city and obtaining hardware and software. The consulting firm placed an order for the city with a vendor in the amount of \$10,203.22, which the city paid upon delivery of the merchandise. No documentation was obtained by the city to show that the purchase had been subject to competitive bidding or that the vendor was the lowest responsive bidder.

RCW 35A.40.210 states in part that:

Procedures for any public work or improvement contracts or purchases for code cities shall be governed by the following statutes, as indicated:

(2) For code cities under twenty thousand population; RCW 35.23.352

RCW 35.23.352, section (6), states that:

Any purchase of supplies, materials, equipment except . . . for public work or improvement, where the cost thereof exceeds seven thousand five hundred dollars shall be made upon call for bids.

This purchase of the computer products appears to be in conflict with the provisions of these statutes.

Without competitive bidding, there is no way to determine that the city obtained the lowest price for the merchandise and that public money was not used unwisely.

We recommend that in the future the city make its purchases in accordance with statute and obtain competitive bids on its purchases of equipment.